



# A Student Resource Guide on Sexual Violence

*Campus Policies, Procedures, and Student Services*

This resource guide is intended to provide general guidance about Colgate University policies, procedures, and services. It is intended only to summarize this information, and is not intended as a complete recitation of the policies, procedures, and services it describes. All investigations, hearings, and other processes and services are governed by the applicable policies, procedures, and service descriptions, as found at [colgate.edu/NDAHSMpolicy](http://colgate.edu/NDAHSMpolicy).

---

# If you have experienced any form of sexual violence (sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, stalking),

*you have the right to make a report to Campus Safety, local law enforcement, and/or state police or choose not to report; to report the incident to Colgate administrators; to be protected by Colgate from retaliation for reporting an incident; and to receive assistance and resources from Colgate.*

- ▶ 1. Go to a safe location as soon as you are able, and seek medical attention as needed. You do NOT need to formally report the incident to seek medical attention or receive free support services from the University.
- ▶ 2. Contact any of the following for assistance:

## **On-Campus Support Resources (Confidential):**

- **Counseling and Psychological Services:** 315-228-7385. After hours, call Campus Safety at 315-228-7911 and ask to talk with the **counselor on call**. No further explanation is needed.
- **Haven:** 315-228-4286 during business hours. Office location: garden level of Curtis Hall.
- **Student Health Services:** 315-228-7750. After hours and for emergencies, contact Campus Safety at 315-228-7911.
- **University Chaplains:** 315-228-7682 during business hours. Office location: garden level of the Chapel.

## **On-Campus Support and Reporting Resources (Nonconfidential):**

*All the individuals listed below have received trauma-informed training to assist students of sexual violence with care and compassion.*

- **Campus Safety:** 315-228-7911. Campus Safety officers are trained in the impact of trauma and can assist students who experienced sexual violence and provide free transportation to a local hospital for access to a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE). Campus Safety officers can contact the on-call dean or counselor and assist with a report to local or state police if you wish.
- **Administrative Deans:** 315-228-7368, 116 McGregory Hall. The on-call dean, available after hours by calling Campus Safety (315-228-7911), can contact medical/counseling personnel and help with interim remedies like housing and academic deadlines.
- **Title IX Coordinator:** 315-228-7014, 102 Lathrop. Renee Madison (rmadison@colgate.edu) is able to receive complaints and to discuss the options available to you.
- **Prohibited Conduct Response Group (PCRG) Members:** Trained faculty and staff are a source of support to help you know your options ([colgate.edu/pcrg](http://colgate.edu/pcrg)).
- **Online Report:** [colgate.edu/concern](http://colgate.edu/concern). You may submit anonymously if you wish.

## Off-Campus Resources:

Colgate strongly encourages reporting cases of criminal conduct to the local or New York State police.

- **Hamilton Police:** 315-824-3311 or 911
- **New York State Police:** 315-366-6000
- **New York State Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline:** 800-942-6906
- **Help Restore Hope Center: *Confidential*,** 24-hour sexual violence hotline: 855-966-9723

- ▶ 3. It is important to preserve physical evidence, including tissue and fluid samples, evidence of violence, sheets, towels, clothing, etc. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) are trained in the collection of forensic evidence, and can check for injuries and exposure to sexually transmitted diseases. It is best to avoid washing, bathing, urinating, etc, until after being examined by a SANE, if possible. Because evidence can deteriorate quickly, you may choose to seek a medical exam as soon as possible. Evidence collection should be completed within 120 hours of an assault, but certain evidence can be collected for some time thereafter. Even if you have washed, evidence can often still be obtained. After 120 hours, it may still be helpful to have medical attention, even if you are not trying to obtain evidence of an assault. If you are still wearing any clothes worn during the assault, wear them to the hospital, but bring a change of clothes, as the hospital may keep the clothes you are wearing as evidence. If you have changed clothes, bring the ones you were wearing during the assault to the hospital in a clean paper or cloth (not plastic) bag. Leave sheets/towels at the scene of the assault. Police will collect them. Typically, police will be called to the hospital to take custody of the rape kit, but it is up to you whether you wish to speak with them or file a criminal complaint. The hospital will call the local sexual violence victim advocacy center so that a student advocate is present to support you.
- ▶ 4. Choose how to proceed. You have options and are encouraged to contact any of the resources listed above to discuss these options: 1) Do nothing until you are ready; 2) Pursue resolution by the University; and/or 3) Initiate criminal proceedings; and/or 4) Initiate a civil process against the perpetrator. You may pursue whatever combination of options is best for you. If you wish to have an incident investigated and resolved by Colgate, you should contact the Title IX coordinator, a PCRG member, or Campus Safety, who can take your report and explain the process for you. Those who wish incidents to be handled criminally should contact Campus Safety or state or local police; a campus official is available to accompany students in making such reports, if desired. Contact Campus Safety for more information (315-228-7911).

**If you are a survivor, it doesn't matter what steps you took or did not take.**

***Remember* that it is never your fault.**

**Seek help. Learn about your options. You are not alone.**

---

# About Confidentiality and Privacy

*To make informed choices, all parties should be aware of confidentiality and privacy issues as well as institutional mandatory reporting requirements.*

## Confidential Reporting

If reporting students wish that details of an incident be kept confidential, they should speak with counseling and psychological services staff, student health services staff, and/or one of the University chaplains. Local resources such as the Help Restore Hope Hotline are also confidential and have no duty to report your information to University officials.

- **Counseling Center:** 315-228-7385
- **Chaplain's Office:** 315-228-7682
- **Haven:** 315-228-4286
- **Health Services:** 315-228-7750
- **Help Restore Hope Hotline:**  
855-966-9723

## Nonconfidential Reporting

All Colgate employees who are not designated above as confidential are expected to share information they receive with the Title IX coordinator. Incidents of sexual misconduct will be taken seriously and will be investigated and resolved in a prompt and equitable manner under the Student Sex- or Gender-Based Discrimination and Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Resources and Response Procedures ([colgate.edu/NDTIXProcedures](http://colgate.edu/NDTIXProcedures)).

You may request confidentiality and/or that the Title IX coordinator provide you with remedies and resources without initiating a formal resolution process. The coordinator will weigh such requests against the institutional need to address and remedy discrimination under Title IX. In most cases, the University will be able to respect your wishes unless it believes there is a threat to the community, for example based on the use of weapons, violence, pattern, predation, or threatening conduct by the person being accused.

In cases where your request for confidentiality is granted, the University will offer you available resources, support, and remedies. You are not obligated to pursue formal resolution in order to access the resources that are available. If the University decides that it is obligated to pursue a formal resolution based on the notice you have given, you are not obligated to participate in the resolution process. However, the ability of the University to enforce its policies or provide some remedies may be limited as a result of your decision not to participate. There is no formal time limitation on the bringing of a complaint, as long as the accused individual is a member of the campus community and therefore subject to University policies. You may make a report, but take the time you need to decide whether you wish to file a formal complaint.

Even where a request for confidentiality cannot be granted, Colgate will maintain your privacy to the greatest extent possible. We appreciate how difficult it is to come forward, and we endeavor to treat survivors with the utmost care and compassion. The information you provide will be relayed only as necessary for the Title IX coordinator to investigate and/or seek a resolution and subject to other legal requirements.

---

## Policy

Sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, dating and domestic violence, and stalking are violations of Colgate's **Student Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy**. A number of federal and state laws and regulations, including Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act, the Clery Act, and the NYS Enough Is Enough law mandate how institutions respond to such allegations. Many types of sexual misconduct also constitute violations of New York State criminal law.

Members of the campus community, guests, and visitors have a right to be free from sexual misconduct. All members of the community must conduct themselves in a way that does not infringe upon the rights of others. The University's Student Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy is intended to define expectations for appropriate conduct and outline resolution processes to address conduct that does not meet these expectations. Conduct that occurs off campus may violate this policy if the conduct creates a threatening or hostile environment on campus or within a Colgate program, or if the incident causes concern for safety or security of Colgate's campus community. For more details on this policy, please visit [colgate.edu/NDAHSMpolicy](https://colgate.edu/NDAHSMpolicy).

Additional information about campus crime, state laws, and disclosures related to sexual misconduct can be found online in the campus Annual Security Report. Access it at [colgate.edu/clery](https://colgate.edu/clery).

You know what feels right.  
You know when things don't feel right.  
Trust yourself.

---

# Sexual Misconduct Violations

*The following are condensed definitions of conduct prohibited by the Student Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy.*

*Sanctions for the following violations range from warning through expulsion/termination.*

## **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment means unwelcome conduct which is either of a sexual nature or which is directed at an individual because of that individual's sex or gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression, when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work, academic, or extracurricular performance, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work or learning environment, even if the reporting individual is not the intended target of the sexual harassment. A "hostile environment" is created when the offensive behavior interferes with an individual's ability to participate in the University's programs (i.e., to work and to learn) when judged against a reasonable person standard. Colgate also prohibits "quid pro quo" sexual harassment, which means "this for that" harassment. It is a violation of this policy for any person to condition any benefit on submission to sexual activity.

## **Nonconsensual Sexual Contact**

This form of sexual assault includes any intentional touching, however slight, for purposes of sexual gratification or with sexual intent, of the private body parts (including genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh, or buttocks) of another person without the affirmative consent of the other person, including instances where the other person is incapable of giving consent because of their youth or because of their temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. This may include non-penetrative acts, touching directly or with an object, and/or touching the private body parts of another over clothing. This may also include forcing or causing another without affirmative consent to touch one's own private body parts.

## **Nonconsensual Sexual Intercourse**

Sexual assault of this type includes the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, forcibly or without the affirmative consent of the other person or where the other person is incapable of consent due to mental or physical incapacity. This type of sexual assault also includes non-forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent. In New York, the statutory age of consent is 17 years old.

## **Sexual Exploitation**

Taking nonconsensual or abusive sexual advantage of another. Examples of sexual exploitation include but are not limited to observing or recording others engaged in sexual or private activity (such as undressing or showering) without the consent of all involved; or taking intimate pictures of another but then distributing the pictures to others without the photographed person's consent or in a way that exceeds the bounds of consent, including the making or posting of revenge pornography; or exposing one's genitals in nonconsensual circumstances; or misappropriating another person's identity on apps, websites, or other venues designed for dating or sexual connections.

---

## Dating Violence

Dating violence refers to violence (including but not limited to sexual or physical abuse or the threat of such abuse) committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: a) the length of the relationship; b) the type of relationship; c) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship. Dating violence can include behavior such as coercion, isolation or other forms of emotional, verbal or economic abuse if it reflects a threat of sexual or physical abuse as described above.

## Domestic Violence

Domestic violence refers to violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the University is located, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction. To categorize an incident as Domestic Violence, the relationship between the Respondent and the Complainant must be more than just two people living together as roommates. The people cohabitating must be current or former spouses or have an intimate relationship as described above.

## Stalking

Stalking is engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person on the basis of sex that would cause a reasonable person to fear for their safety or the safety of others; or suffer substantial emotional distress. For the purposes of this definition, a "course of conduct" means two or more acts, including but not limited to acts in which the individual directly, indirectly, or through third parties, by any action, method, device, or means, follows, monitors, observes, surveils, threatens, or communicates to or about a person, or interferes with a person's property; "reasonable person" means a reasonable person under similar circumstances and with similar identities to the complainant; and "substantial emotional distress" means significant mental suffering or anguish that may but does not necessarily require medical or other professional treatment or counseling. Examples of behavior that may constitute stalking include repeated, intentional following, observing or lying in wait for another; using "spyware" or other electronic means to gain impermissible access to a person's private information; repeated, unwanted, intrusive, and frightening communications by phone, mail, email, text, etc.; making direct or indirect threats to harm an individual or the individual's relatives, friends, or pets; or damaging or threatening to damage the property of the targeted individual.

## Gender-Based Discrimination

Gender-based discrimination is any act that disadvantages a person *and* that occurs because of the affected individual's sex or gender identity and expression.

## Retaliation

Retaliation is any adverse action taken against a person for participating in a protected activity, any adverse action taken against an individual for reporting a complaint or concern about a violation or suspected violation of this policy, for supporting a reporting individual, or for assisting in providing information in the context of an investigation or disciplinary proceeding.

---

## Affirmative Consent

*Knowing, voluntary, and mutual decision among all participants to engage in sexual activity.*

- Consent can be given by words or actions, as long as those words or actions create clear permission regarding willingness to engage in the sexual activity.
- Silence or lack of resistance, in and of itself, does not demonstrate consent.
- The definition of consent does not vary based upon a participant's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.
- Since individuals may experience the same interaction in different ways, it is the responsibility of each party to take reasonable steps to ensure that the other has consented before engaging in the activity.
- Consent to some sexual contact (such as kissing or fondling) cannot be presumed to be consent for other sexual activity (such as intercourse).
- A current or previous dating relationship is not sufficient to constitute consent.
- Previous consent to engage in sexual activity does not imply consent to sexual activity in the future.
- Consent cannot be given as result of coercion, intimidation, force, or threat of harm.
- To legally give consent in New York, individuals must be at least 17 years old.

**Being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is not an excuse for sexual assault. The person initiating sexual activity is always responsible for obtaining consent.**

**The fact that an individual voluntarily drinks until a state of incapacitation is reached, and is therefore responsible for their own incapacity, does not give another person the right to sexually assault the incapacitated individual. Whether an individual self-incapacitates or not is irrelevant. The question under Colgate policy is whether the individual was incapacitated and thus unable to consent, not how the individual became incapacitated.**

---

## Incapacitation

A person cannot consent if that individual is incapacitated. Incapacitation is defined as a state where someone lacks the ability to knowingly choose to participate in a specific activity.

Incapacity may be caused by the lack of consciousness, sleep, involuntary restraint, or other factors that prevent voluntary choice. Depending on the degree of intoxication, someone who is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other intoxicants may be incapacitated and therefore unable to consent.

An individual who engages in sexual activity when the individual knows, or should know, that the other person is physically or mentally incapacitated has violated Colgate's Student Non-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct policy.

Consent is required regardless of whether or not the initiator is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

It is not an excuse that the person initiating the sexual activity was intoxicated or incapacitated due to alcohol or other drugs and, therefore, did not realize the incapacity of the other.

---

## Amnesty

The health and safety of every student at Colgate is of utmost importance. Colgate recognizes that students who have been underage drinking and/or using drugs (whether such use is voluntary or involuntary), and/or engaged in other minor violations of Colgate policy, at the time that violence, including but not limited to domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault, occurs, may be hesitant to report such incidents due to fear of potential consequences for their own conduct. Colgate strongly encourages students to report domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to institution officials. A bystander acting in good faith or a reporting individual acting in good faith that discloses any incident of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault to Colgate's officials or law enforcement will not be subject to Colgate's code of conduct action for violations of alcohol and/or drug use policies occurring at or near the time of the commission of the domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault.

---

# Your Rights

*Colgate strives to provide members of the campus community with fair and equitable resolution processes that include both formal and informal options.*

**All students have the right to:**

1. Make a report to local law enforcement and/or state police.
2. Have disclosures of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and sexual assault treated seriously.
3. Make a decision about whether or not to disclose a crime or violation and participate in the judicial or conduct process and/or criminal justice process free from pressure by Colgate.
4. Participate in a process that is fair, impartial, and provides adequate notice and a meaningful opportunity to be heard.
5. Be treated with dignity and to receive from the institution courteous, fair, and respectful health care and counseling services, where available.
6. Be free from any suggestion that the reporting individual is at fault when these crimes and violations are committed, or should have acted in a different manner to avoid such crimes or violations.
7. Describe the incident to as few institution representatives as practicable and not be required to unnecessarily repeat a description of the incident.
8. Be protected from retaliation by Colgate, any student, the accused and/or the respondent, and/or their friends, family, and acquaintances within the jurisdiction of the University.
9. Access to at least one level of appeal of a determination.
10. Be accompanied by an adviser of choice who may assist and advise a complainant, accused, or respondent throughout the judicial or conduct process, including during all meetings and hearings related to such process.
11. Exercise civil rights and practice of religion without interference by the investigative, criminal justice, or judicial or conduct process of Colgate.
12. Be treated with respect by University officials.
13. Experience a safe living, educational, and work environment.
14. Decline to have an allegation resolved through conflict resolution procedures.
15. Receive amnesty for minor student misconduct (such as minor alcohol violations) that is ancillary to the incident.
16. Attend in person or via speakerphone or videoconference any hearing and to be situated in a different room from the respondent during the hearing if so desired.
17. Receive written notification of the outcome/resolution of the complaint, including a statement detailing the factual findings and the rationale for the determination and for the sanction imposed.

---

## Supportive Measures

Supportive measures are intended to restore or preserve, to the extent practicable, equal access to the University's educational programs and activities and protect the safety of all parties without unreasonably burdening any other party or parties. *The person initiating sexual activity is always responsible for acquiring consent.* As required by federal regulation, these supportive measures must be non-disciplinary and nonpunitive to the parties. Supportive measures could include but are not limited to:

- Changes or adjustment in academics such as the extension of deadlines or other course-related adjustments or allowing a withdrawal from a course without penalty;
- Changes to housing, transportation, and campus working situations if those changes are requested by a party and reasonably available;
- Mutual "no contact" orders and, in certain cases, one-way no contact orders;
- Access to campus escorts or other reasonable security or monitoring measures;  
and/or
- Counseling services.

### Emergency Removal

The University may need to undertake emergency removal of a student in order to protect the safety of its community, which may include contacting local law enforcement to address imminent safety concerns. Emergency removal is not a substitute for reaching a determination as to a student respondent's responsibility for misconduct allegations; rather, emergency removal is for the purpose of addressing imminent threats posed to any person's physical health or safety, which may arise out of alleged misconduct or the allegations of misconduct. Emergency removal may be total (i.e., the student is suspended from the University) or partial (e.g., the student is suspended from being present on campus, or presence is limited to specified areas, times, or purposes) at the discretion of the University based on the circumstances.

Prior to removing a student respondent through the emergency removal process, the University will undertake an individualized safety and risk analysis. If the individualized safety and risk analysis determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the alleged misconduct or the allegations of misconduct justifies removal, then a student respondent will be removed.

If a student respondent disagrees with the decision to be removed from campus, they may appeal the decision. The burden of proof is on the student respondent to show that the removal decision was incorrect. The emergency removal will remain in effect while the appeal is considered.

---

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **What is the difference between a report and a complaint?**

A report tells someone that something happened so that the individual can receive supportive measures, but does not trigger responsive action unless there is a danger to the community. A complaint is a request for the incident to be investigated and adjudicated if it is determined that a potential policy violation may have occurred.

## **What happens after I report something?**

Counseling center, health services, and chaplain's office staff are confidential resources. If you speak to them, nothing will happen without your permission. If you talk to a faculty or staff member other than a confidential resource, they have a duty to report to the Title IX coordinator (this includes community leaders). In most cases, we will do our best to respect your wishes regarding what further steps you wish to take, offer support and resources, and answer questions.

## **How can I find out more about the University's response to a report of sexual misconduct without getting into specifics of an incident?**

Anyone can ask a Prohibited Conduct Response Group (PCRG) member, or the Title IX coordinator and equity and diversity officer, or the provost for equity and diversity to explain the policy or process and talk through "what if's" without disclosing an actual incident (if they are not prepared to do so). PCRG members can be an important resource for students who want information on the complaint process or what a PCRG hearing is like. PCRG members receive annual in-depth training on issues of sexual violence, sexual harassment and discriminatory harassment. PCRG members are listed at [colgate.edu/pcrg](http://colgate.edu/pcrg).

## **If I file a report or a complaint, will you share that information with my family?**

No, except in rare circumstances where notification is necessary to address an immediate safety concern. Otherwise, it is up to you. Families of the responding party are usually only informed if there is an interim suspension and/or if a sanction of suspension or expulsion is imposed as a result of a hearing.

## **Does Colgate offer an alternative to the formal PCRG hearing process?**

Yes, an informal resolution process is possible if both parties consent to use it. The informal resolution process is a voluntary process in which a trained facilitator assists the parties in resolving the allegations made by a complainant.

## **Can an individual file a PCRG complaint with the university and also report an incident to Hamilton police or New York State Police? Can someone face Colgate discipline and police charges at the same time?**

Yes. Filing a complaint with Colgate is not the same as going to the police, and the criminal process is separate from the University process. Both processes can occur simultaneously.

## **What is a no contact order?**

A no contact order is issued when a student brings forward a concern regarding interactions with another student and requests that the student have no further avoidable contact. The no contact order is not a disciplinary action and does not appear on a student's academic record, but it is designed to provide a measure of relief for a student who wishes to maintain distance from another student both inside and outside of class. A no contact order cannot guarantee that the individuals will not encounter one another on Colgate's campus, but it does establish parameters for those encounters in terms of distance and communication. Any alleged violations of the no contact order are investigated. If a violation is substantiated, further restrictions may be imposed and/or disciplinary action may be warranted.

---

# Risk Reduction

*Risk reduction for intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual harassment, and sexual violence*

While victim blaming is never appropriate and Colgate fully recognizes that only those who commit sexual misconduct are responsible for their actions, these suggestions may help individuals reduce their risk of being victimized and their risk of committing acts of sexual misconduct.

## **Reducing the Risk of Committing Acts of Sexual Misconduct**

- Show your potential partner respect if you are in a position of initiating sexual behavior.
- If you want a “yes,” ask for it, and don’t proceed without clear permission. If a potential partner says “no,” accept it and don’t push.
- Clearly communicate your intentions to your potential sexual partners, and give them a chance to share their intentions and/or boundaries with you.
- Respect personal boundaries. If you are unsure what’s OK in any interaction, ask.
- Avoid ambiguity. Don’t make assumptions about consent, about whether someone is attracted to you, how far you can go with that person, or if the individual is physically and mentally able to consent. If you have questions or are unclear, you don’t have consent.
- Don’t take advantage of the fact that someone may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, even if that person chose to become that way. Others’ loss of control does not put you in control.
- Be on the lookout for mixed messages. That should be a clear indication to stop and talk about what your potential partner wants or doesn’t want to happen. That person may be undecided about how far to go with you, or you may have misread a previous signal.
- Respect the time line for sexual behaviors with which others are comfortable, and understand that they are entitled to change their minds.
- Recognize that even if you don’t think you are intimidating in any way, your potential partner may be intimidated by or fearful of you, perhaps because of your sex, physical size, or a position of power or authority you hold.
- Do not assume that someone’s silence or passivity is an indication of consent. Pay attention to verbal and nonverbal signals to avoid misreading intentions.
- Understand that consent to one type of sexual behavior does not automatically grant consent to other types of sexual behaviors. If you are unsure, stop and ask.
- Understand that exerting power and control over another through sex is unacceptable conduct.

## **Reducing the Risk of Victimization**

- Make known as early as possible any limits/boundaries you may have.
- Clearly and firmly articulate consent or lack of consent.
- Remove yourself, if possible, from an aggressor’s physical presence.
- Reach out for help, either from someone who is physically nearby or by calling someone. People around you may be waiting for a signal that you need help.
- Take affirmative responsibility for your alcohol and/or drug consumption. Alcohol and drugs can increase your vulnerability to sexual victimization.
- Look out for your friends and ask them to look out for you. Respect them and ask them to respect you, but be willing to challenge each other about high-risk choices.

---

## Bystander Intervention

Bystander intervention is a strategy to prevent various types of violence, including bullying, sexual harassment and assault, and intimate partner violence. Grouped together, we call these behaviors “gender-based violence.” The Bystander Intervention training is a two-hour interactive program developed and led by student facilitators. It includes videos, discussion of the definition of consent, facts about how Colgate can help student survivors of sexual assault and/or harassment, and a long section on how to identify dangerous situations and intervene safely and effectively.

---

## The Network

The Network is a student sexual assault and domestic violence awareness group organized by the COVE. The group hosts weekly meetings that discuss upcoming events and current issues, and organizes annual events like Take Back The Night and Speak Out. The Network partners with the Help Restore Hope Hotline for Madison County, where students are trained to answer a sexual assault and domestic abuse hotline.

---

## Yes Means Yes

Yes Means Yes is a six-week positive sexuality seminar led by student, faculty, and staff facilitators. Created by a student in 2009, Yes Means Yes gives students the unique opportunity to gather with people from across campus to engage in honest discussion.

The seminar covers topics of positive sexuality in an attempt to destigmatize and encourage conversation about sex, pleasure, a healthy sexual climate on campus, combating sexual violence, the way different identities interact with sex and sexuality, and more.

---

# How to Help a Friend

Survivors of sexual assault are more likely to tell a friend about the assault than anyone else. While fewer than 5% of sexual assaults of college students are reported, two-thirds of survivors tell a friend about the incident. When a friend confides in you, you may want to help but not know what to do. You are likely to be emotionally shaken and find yourself struggling with your own feelings of anger and helplessness. It is very difficult for survivors to come forward and share their story, and your reaction may impact whether or not your friend chooses to continue to share this information with others and seek further help.

## **What you can do:**

- Believe your friend.
- Be a good listener.
- Validate your friend's feelings.
- Assure your friend that it is not their fault.
- Do not make judgmental comments.
- Discuss their options with them.
- Help them to get the support they need.
- Give your friend control.
- Offer ongoing support.
- Respect your friend's privacy and confidentiality.
- Do not forget to take care of yourself.

## COLGATE UNIVERSITY

Renee Madison  
Vice President for Equity and  
Inclusion  
rmadison@colgate.edu  
315-228-7014  
Office of Equity and Diversity  
102 Lathrop Hall  
Hamilton, NY 13346

Kim Taylor  
Dean for Administrative Advising  
and Student Conduct  
ktaylor@colgate.edu  
315-228-7426  
121D Gregory Hall  
Hamilton, NY 13346

COLGATE UNIVERSITY